(v) To avert dual price system for domestic and imported gas.

(vi) Market driven prices being charged by the private producers of gas.

(vii) To curb the increasing disparity between gas price and other alternate fuels like Naphtha and fuel oil.

(c) Currently, there is no import of natural gas/LNG. However, there are various initiatives both public and private, who are in process to import natural gas and LNG to India.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Inclusion of cancelled agencies under Kargil Scheme

1622. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to include petrol pumps and LPG distributorship allotted in 1993—96 and cancelled by High Court and later cancellation upheld by Supreme Court, as part of Kargil Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government have a proposal to explore the possibility of allotment of the retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships, allotted under the discretionary quota earlier and subsequently cancelled by the Delhi High Court, the cancellation of which has since been upheld by the Supreme Court, to the beneficiaries of the Special Scheme for widows/next of kin of Defence personnel killed in action in "OP Vijay" (Kargil).

Indo-Iran Gas Project

1623. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the dollar 4.5 billion Indo-Iranian gas pipeline project on which both the countries had entered into a preliminary agreement;

(b) whether feasibility studies in respect of the gas pipeline project have since been carried out and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any re-thinking on either side about going ahead with the above-mentioned project and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India and the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran have set up an Indo-Iran Joint Committee to examine all the options to import natural gas to India from Iran through pipeline including on-land and off-shore deep water pipeline outside the continental shelf/margin of Pakistan. The consortium led by M/s. Snamprogetti-Saipem of Italy has been awarded to conduct feasibility study for deep water pipeline. The Joint Committee is in the process of undertaking feasibility study for onland gas pipeline.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) The techno-feasibility and economic viability of the gas pipelines depends on the outcome of the studies.

Selection of Gas Distributors by DSB-4, Bihar

†1524. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the names, addresses of the first, second and third position in the panel of gas distributors selected in different places by Dealer Selection Board Zone-4 in Bihar, place-wise;

(b) the names of the places from where the complaints have been received out of them; and (c) the details and outcome of the enquiry being conducted by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The names of candidates included in the panel for appointment of LPG distributors at various locations are published at the place of interview just after the completion of interview process by concerned Dealer Selection Board (DSB). DSB, Patna-IV, Bihar has conducted the interview for the locations, namely, Rarhi, Kishanganj (V), Murliganj (V), Narpatganj, Sonbarsha, Triveniganj, Birpur, Jhanijharpur, Ghoghardiha and Laheriasarai in Bihar State.

(b) and (c) Complaints received against the selection made by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.